



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1876.

Mr. Harris, of Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Elections, of the House of Representatives, is the object of abuse, from a Radical source, that, while impotent of evil, is yet annoying, as are all false accusations, come they from where they may. In this instance Mr. Harris is charged with delaying the investigation into the contested election case of Platt vs. Goode, for the purpose of allowing Mr. Goode to hold his seat during this session. Now there have not been so many important contested cases before Congress for many years, and the committee are unable to try all of them at once. The evidence in these cases will, in many instances, fill volumes, ranging from five hundred to a thousand pages of printed matter, and it will certainly require time, and a good deal of it, to examine the mass of testimony and do justice to the contestants and their constituents. But one case can be tried at a time, and some rule, or order of procedure, had to be adopted. The committee of which Mr. Harris is the chairman, and upon which there is a majority of Democrats, found on the records of their predecessors, in the last Congress, the rules and mode of procedure adopted by the Radical committee, among which was a docket of the cases arranged alphabetically as to States. That the Radical rule, as adopted by the present committee, throws the Virginia case at the bottom of the list, is certainly no fault of Mr. Harris or his committee, as some one had to be last, and we see no particular reason why Mr. Platt should be made an exception to the rule of his own party, and have his case taken up out of order, though we have no doubt both Mr. Goode and Mr. Harris would, most willingly, were it in their power, and the contest at once, the constituents of Mr. Goode feeling no uneasiness as to the result, upon the merits of the case, and the abundance of evidence that will be adduced to show the perfect and clear title to his seat.

CAPT. W. H. FOWLE.—A communication appeared in yesterday's Gazette calling upon Capt. W. H. Fowle to resign his seat as a member of the Legislature from this city. That thought suggested itself to Capt. Fowle as soon as he regained his reason, and would have been acted upon but for the advice of some of his friends. In order, however, that his present views may be stated correctly, we publish the following letter, received from him this morning, which, though not written for the press, contains such information that simple justice to him warrants its publication:

RICHMOND, January 25, 1876.
DEAR SIR: I am just in receipt of a letter from a friend, in which he says that a friend of mine, a prominent citizen, is talking of getting up a petition asking me to resign. I am acting entirely under advice, and my friends here advise a different course. I have strong hopes of being able to make a final satisfactory settlement with the Montpelier, and until it is demonstrated that I cannot settle, I think the people might wait. I would have written a statement, but my counsel advises differently. I am in daily consultation with the trustees of the Montpelier, and they are satisfied with matters as they progress. I have the sympathy of all here, and they understand the matter fully. I think my people, who I know to be generous, might wait until it is demonstrated that I am in default. I have suffered worse than death; spare me more pain, if possible. From the time I commenced to play—and I was not then quite sober—I remember nothing until an instinct of self-preservation made me telegraph to Mr. Hunter. I had about \$300 of my own money and played with that. How I became involved and played the bonds I do not know.

Yours truly,
WM. H. FOWLE.

As stated in yesterday's Gazette the Captain has succeeded, though he did not know it at the time he wrote the above letter, in making good the entire amount of the funds belonging to the Montpelier Association he so unfortunately lost.

Mr. Smoot was right last night when he said, in the Common Council, that the way to the Fayette-street depot was "through mud, mire and quagmire, and was lighted only by igloo fat," and it is to be hoped that his resolution providing for a correction of the crying evil may be adopted, and its instructions carried out at once.

The February number of the Penn Monthly has been received from the publishers in Philadelphia. Its contents are: The Month, Gudron the Trusty, A Study in Steam Engineering, A Talk About Finance Policy, Captain Joseph Richardson, Fallacy of the Gold Standard, &c., &c.

Lynch Law.

CINCINNATI, January 25.—A dispatch from Charleston, West Virginia, dated yesterday, says the cases of Dawson and Estep, charged with the murder of Lee several days ago, were called in court to-day. The prisoners' counsel consumed the day in arguing for a change of venue on account of the popular excitement against the prisoners. The judge reversed his decision until to-morrow. The court house and yard were filled with people, a majority of whom belong to Campbell's Creek, where the murder was committed.

LATER.—About two hundred armed men arrived at 10 p. m., on the steamer Judge Baker, and proceeded to the jail and took Dawson and Estep out, and marched them off to the woods, where they will probably be found hanging to a tree in the morning. Dooley, who was killed by Hines early this evening, was a colored man. After the mob had carried off the Lee murderers, the colored citizens, to the number of fifty, went to the jail and demanded Hines, who was delivered to them, and they then followed the former crowd to the woods with their prisoner, who will probably meet the same fate.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

The Recent Affair in a Gambling House—No Investigation Yet—Judge Stevens Still Absent—The Johnson and Knight Case—That Capitol Restaurant, etc., etc.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Jan. 25, 1876.

The Johnson and Knight contested election case continues to absorb the public attention, and the temporary excitement about the affair in the gambling house has subsided. I begin to doubt whether there will be an investigation after all. The continued absence of Judge Stevens causes much comment, not very favorable to that gentleman. Some one in my presence, to-day, said something to the effect that the affair had proved that Mr. Fowle was a man not afraid to stand his ground, and that Judge Stevens had been proved just the reverse. The talk over the matter has ceased, and the members themselves are remarkably quiet upon the subject. Indeed, who is the man among them that can cast the first stone? The legislators have visited Washburn's place so often that they cannot see the propriety of blaming a man for doing what they have done. Since the statements published in the newspapers about the matter the attendance at the gambling houses has fallen off considerably. The regular habitués fight shy of the members of the Legislature when they see them now. They are afraid that they will get in trouble by the operation. I understand that the representatives of Nelson county have advised Judge Stevens to resign, but that he refuses to do. He says, if the Legislature wants to impeach him they can do so, but he will not resign. The Senate, to-day, repealed the act incorporating the Montpelier Female Humane Association, and also repealed the charter of the same, and thus ends the existence of this Association, which was started under such bright auspices, a funding of the Governor's, the play thing of the Legislature and the game of New York swindlers. It was an unfortunate Association, from first to last everything went wrong with it.

The report of the Knight and Johnson committee has not been completed yet. Maj. J. M. Daniel, of Lynchburg, is now engaged in writing the report, which will be very lengthy, and will probably make three or four columns in the daily papers. The committee may not report before Thursday.

In the House, to-day, the minority and majority reports in the contested election case of White vs. Hudgin were discussed pro and con. The talk of having a Capitol restaurant has so disturbed a saloon keeper "on the ramparts of the constitution," as the boys call Ninth and Broad streets, that to-day, in the hope of averting such a blow, he sent invitations to all the members to come over and take dinner with him. They went and ate and drank and made merry, and now they all say it is nonsense to talk about having a Capitol restaurant.

The Richmond Caledonian Club to-night celebrated the birthday of Burns by a grand banquet, dancing and other festivities.

The Richmond property of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac R. R. Co. is offered at private sale. It is very valuable and covers nearly a whole square in the heart of the city.

The Committee on Schools and Colleges met to-night to hear Gen. Smith and others address them on the advisability of helping the Virginia Military Institute. That school has turned out a large number of first-class scholars, and should be helped. But the policy of the Legislature is to help themselves and nobody else.

Delegates Simpson and Fowle, of Alexandria, are with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, in their seats more than any of the delegates, and attend to their business with commendable promptness.

LEGISLATIVE.

In the Virginia Senate, yesterday, it was declared in expedient to legislate on the subject of a preamble and resolutions of the county school board of Loudoun county, about amending the constitution relative to public schools, &c.

A bill was passed amending the Code in reference to county levies.

A communication was read, from the prosecuting attorney of Caroline county relative to proceedings against delinquent township collectors and their sureties.

A bill for the working of roads in Shenandoah, Page and Rockingham counties was laid on the table.

A bill was passed declaring liens on baggage and effects of boarders; also a bill incorporating the Shenandoah Farmers' Home Mutual Fire Insurance Company; amending the Code in relation to the measurement of commercial and other measures; also a bill amending the charter of the city of Staunton; also a bill for the relief of E. B. Holloman and als., sureties of J. P. Hodges, late clerk of Norfolk county; also a bill to protect owners of fisheries in Northampton county; also a bill repealing the charter of the Montpelier Female Humane Association granted by the Circuit Court of Orange county.

The bill in relation to the salaries of county judges was amended and recommitted.

A bill was introduced to authorize the counties, cities and towns of this Commonwealth to subscribe to the erection of a monument at Richmond in memory of General Robert Edward Lee.

The bill to provide temporary headstones for the graves of Generals J. E. B. Stuart and A. P. Hill, was read twice.

In the House an adverse report was returned on the House bill to prohibit the taking or catching of fish with pound nets.

The Committee on Public Property reported Mr. Hoeniger's bill in relation to the weighmaster of live stock, with the recommendation that it do not pass. The bill provides that if any person shall sell or buy, unless for a certain price per head, any beef cattle, hogs or sheep for the shambles within the corporate limits of the city of Richmond or within five miles of the same, which have not been raised, or grazed three months within the said limits, or within five miles of the same, and which have not been weighed by said weighmaster, the seller and buyer shall each forfeit and pay a fine of not less than one nor more than five dollars for each head of cattle, and for each hog or sheep a fine of not less than fifty cents nor more than one dollar.

A bill was introduced to provide for the pay and mileage of members of the General Assembly, and certain officers of the Commonwealth.

It was reported inexpedient to legislate on the subject of removing the bell-house from the Capitol grounds, and the report was adopted.

The Committee on Public Property reported a bill authorizing the Superintendent of Public

Buildings to have two new boilers placed in the basement of the Capitol, and for that purpose the bill provides for the appropriation of twelve hundred dollars.

The House then took up the contested election case of Smith J. R. White, contesting the seat of J. M. Hudgin, delegate from Caroline county. The committee reported in favor of seating Smith J. R. White. The minority report was presented, claiming that neither of the gentlemen was entitled to the seat and recommended that the matter be referred back to the people. Mr. Armistead Carter argued in favor of a new election.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The new Spanish Cortes consists of 406 members, of which number 364 are Minors and 42 are Seniors. A dispatch from Renteria announces that the Alfonsists are making a general movement. There is heavy firing around San Sebastian, and the latest dispatch reports the Alfonsists gaining ground in the neighborhood of La Sarte and Oyarzun.

The commission appointed to select paintings by French artists for the Centennial Exhibition have chosen 670 specimens for the Art Gallery. Among those selected are the Declaration of Independence, the Surrender at Yorktown, Old and New California, and a portrait of Washington, with one hundred specimens of sculpture and sixty engravings and designs.

William, King of the Netherlands, yesterday formally opened the Amsterdam Crystal Palace for the temporary exposition of articles intended for Philadelphia.

A remedy for Peru's financial distress is believed to have been found. Somebody in Paris wants to buy two million tons of guano from the government.

O. J. Miller and Robert Fleming, of Dundee, have agreed to undertake the reorganization of the New York Erie Railroad, as resolved upon at the late meeting in London.

The German Reichstag has passed through its second reading the bill in aid of Centennial exhibitors to represent that country.

There is a grave commercial crisis at Riga, European Russia, which will probably react at St. Petersburg.

Great sufferings among Armenian Christians from Turkish cruelty are reported.

Congress.

The following proceedings of Congress yesterday are additional to those published in the Gazette of this date:

In the Senate a memorial was presented from the Women's National Suffrage Association praying for the establishment of woman suffrage in the District of Columbia. The bill to provide for the appointment of a commission to investigate the alcoholic traffic was passed—yeas 29, nays 29.

Booth of California, and Withers of Virginia, voting with the Republicans in favor of the bill. Previous to its passage it was amended so that the information obtained may serve as a guide to the system of legislation best fitted for the District of Columbia and the Territories in reference to the question of revenue from the manufacture and sale of alcoholic and fermented liquors. The Committee on Public Buildings was instructed to inquire whether any railroads running into Washington city obstructed the public avenues, streets and grounds, under what right such obstructions existed, and what measures were necessary to secure the surrender of such rights, as also the surrender of any depot buildings on public squares. A bill for the protection of settlers on public lands was introduced and advocated by several Western Senators, but pending discussion the Senate went into executive session.

In the House a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of War for copies of the orders and instructions under which General Meigs is acting during his absence from the country. An adverse report from the banking committee was presented and adopted on sundry bills repealing the ten per cent tax on banks and banking associations. The centennial appropriation bill was called up, and a number of speeches were made for and against it. Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi, among others, spoke eloquently in favor of the bill, declaring it to be clearly constitutional, and expressing the belief that it carried out the spirit of peace and conciliation. The bill was then put upon its passage and it passed by a vote of 146 yeas to 130 nays. The Virginia and West Virginia delegations (with the exception of Mr. St. Paul, Republican, from the former State), voted against the bill.

The Montpelier.

The Richmond Dispatch says: "Mr. Coghill and Senator Smith. Conservative members of the Legislature from Nelson, have advised Judge Stevens, in view of the trouble with Delegate Fowle, to resign. Judge Stevens declines to do so. He says, as we are informed by a friend of his, that if the Legislature wants to get him out of office they can impeach him. The money and bonds he claims to have fairly won. The friends of Judge Stevens pronounce the accounts published in the Alexandria papers as false in not a few respects, and assert that if an investigation is had Judge Stevens will not appear before the public in the bad light in which he is at present stood. There were rumors yesterday that Judge Coghill's grand jury would summon the gentlemen to whom Messrs. Fowle and Stevens related the particulars of the transaction as witnesses on an indictment for unlawful gaming. That will probably be done, but whether before or after the Legislature has acted can only be surmised."

The Enquirer says: "In the Senate, Mr. Smith, of Nelson, took steps looking to the repeal of the charter of the Montpelier Female Humane Association. From its birth to the present day nothing but misfortune has marked its history. Its drawing was a fraud, and the late unfortunate affair gloriously finished its financial career. By the way, newspapers out of the State in alluding to this, throw out hints that there are others than those already known to the public, connected with the scandal, when the truth is that no member of the Legislature except Mr. Fowle, and no State official except the county judge of Nelson, was either directly or remotely a party or an accessory to the transaction which blighted a life that had been brave in war and true in peace."

As will be seen by reference to the Legislative proceedings in to-day's Gazette, the charter for the Association has been repealed, and now that the whole disgraceful affair has come to its legitimate end, it is hoped that a full and true history of its entire existence will be published, in order that those whose names were connected with it, but whose skirts are clear of its contaminating effect, may be thoroughly relieved of the odium that is attached to the whole concern. The statements that have heretofore been published purporting to give the true history of the Association left those interested in its affairs just about as wise as they were before such statements were printed.

All the Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives voted against the Centennial appropriation, or gift of the people's money to a private corporation, except Mr. Stowell, who, by the way, is not looked upon as one of the delegation.

The Impeachment Cases.

The Richmond Dispatch, says:

The Committee for Courts of Justice have received authority from the House to send for papers and papers in the case of Judge Aylett Nicol, of Prince William county, charged with fraud and corruption in office. On Wednesday, the 24th proximo, the matter will be heard in committee, and accused will be present. The committee find in the Constitution two different plans of procedure laid down for their guidance:

Section 16, Article V., says "The Lieutenant Governor, judges, and all other officers offending against the State by mal-administration shall be impeachable by the House of Delegates and be prosecuted before the Senate, which shall have the sole power to try impeachment," &c.

Section 23 of Article VI. provides that "Judges may be removed from office by a concurrent vote of both Houses of the General Assembly, but a majority of all the members elected to each House must concur in such vote, and the cause of removal shall be entered on the journal of each House. The judge against whom the General Assembly may be about to proceed shall have notice thereof, accompanied by a copy of the causes alleged for his removal, at least twenty days before the day on which either House of the General Assembly shall act thereon."

It is under this latter section the committee will recommend the Legislature to act, if indeed any action looking to removal be found necessary.

The Enquirer of the same city, says:—

The Committee on Courts of Justice of the House has decided to take up the impeachment case of Judge Nicol, of Prince William, on Wednesday of next week, and the House yesterday, by a vote, authorized them to send for persons and papers. Mr. Davies, who asks the charges, is a lawyer of high standing in his county, and in his affidavit he alleges that Judge Nicol was one of the stockholders of the Potomac and Manassas Railroad, that he bought the undivided interest in eleven lots of land situated in the town of Carboro and appointed, as Judge of the County Court, a Board of Commissioners to condemn land for the use of the company; that the commissioners condemned the land he owned, and submitted their report, which he, as County Judge, approved, and ordered the President of said company to pay the amount of said condemnation; that he appointed a commissioner of his court to ascertain what proportion he was entitled to, and corruptly combined with another party to share the result of the speculation; that the company was not in any proceeding repressed by an attorney to protect its interest, and that the action of the judge in the whole matter was arbitrary and corrupt; that he agreed to receive a bribe of five hundred dollars for appointing freeholders to appraise the lands of the company. The affidavit and petition are lengthy.

THE MONTREAL ELOPEMENT CASE.—It was stated yesterday that Mrs. Nina Mackenzie, of Montreal, the eloping wife of a prominent merchant of that city and eluded her relatives in New York on Saturday evening, and arrived at the Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, with her paramour, T. H. Brydges. On learning these facts Mr. Andrew Allan and other relatives who had accompanied him from Montreal, when he came on to New York in search of his errand daughter, went to Philadelphia, whither they were followed by Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Brydges, the parents of Mrs. Mackenzie's companion, who had also come to New York in search of their son. The Philadelphia Times of yesterday furnishes the following in regard to the scandal:

"The elopement case of Lieutenant Brydges and the wife of Mr. Mackenzie came to a conclusion here last night. The runaway arrived here at midnight on Saturday, and went to the Grand House, where they registered as Mr. and Miss Crawford, of London. On Sunday they went to the Continental Hotel, and the names on the hotel register were Mr. Brydges and Miss Brydges. They were assigned separate rooms, and stayed there until yesterday, when Lieutenant Brydges' father and the father of Mrs. Mackenzie arrived there with Mr. Abbott, lawyer, and Mr. McKenney, a barrister for the Lieutenant. The room assigned for coming here was that Mrs. McKenney desired to enter into a divorce. A lawyer was consulted and both parties were advised to return to Montreal. A conference was held in their rooms, which was said to be of a very amiable nature. The effect of the consultation was understood to be that it had been arranged all around that the lady should return to her father's house in Montreal and await the result of an application by her husband for a divorce a vinculo matrimonii, after which she would bestow her hand where her heart has evidently already gone, the young man agreeing to regard the proprieties meanwhile."

Mr. Allan, with his daughter and other relatives, left for New York in one train and the Brydges' party in another. The Times says the party of the lovers at the Continental was described as that of "very discreet persons."

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

I see by a card signed "A. Nicol," dated January 21st, 1876, and circulated with the last issue of the Manassas Gazette, in which "A. Nicol" pronounces any and all who had preferred before the Legislature charges of fraud and corruption in his official conduct, or those who had endorsed them or any who circulated them, liars, slanderers, cowards and scoundrels. He also stated that this card "was stuck up and read in the presence of Wm. E. Lipscomb, the reputed author of the charges and that he was as dumb as an oyster." I presume the impression rested upon the minds of all who have read this card, that I covered in the presence of this august Judge. In order to correct such an impression, I beg leave to state that the card was not read by Nicol, nor by any other person in my hearing, nor I am aware of the contents of the card, nor do I consider myself the author of the charges—slanderers, liars, slanderers, cowards and scoundrels. 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